



## 24 HOUR EMERGENCY CENTER

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## LAPAROSCOPIC SPAY v2020.02.21

### WHAT IS A SPAY?

Simply stated, a “spay” is the surgical sterilization of a female dog or cat by removal of the ovaries and/or uterus so that the animal cannot reproduce.

### WHY SPAY?

There are many benefits to spaying. Besides the risk of unwanted litters and the inconvenience of dealing with a pet in heat, spaying provides health benefits such as:

- Elimination of pyometra (a life-threatening uterine infection)
- Decreased risk of ovarian and uterine cancer
- Decreased risk of mammary (breast) cancers
- Lower incidence escape and sexual roaming
- Increased life span

### TRADITIONAL SPAY

In a traditional spay, a 2 – 4 inch skin and abdominal wall incision is made at the umbilical region to gain entrance into the abdomen. The ovaries are located and the ligaments holding the ovaries in place within the abdomen are ruptured, typically by hand. The ovaries and/or uterus are then externalized through the abdominal wall incision, ligated (tied-off) and then removed. The abdominal wall and skin incisions are then sutured closed.



### LAPAROSCOPIC SPAY

With a laparoscopic spay (lap spay), the spay procedure is accomplished by incorporating the same instruments and procedures as seen in human minimally invasive surgery. The laparoscopic spay procedure is typically performed through one to three tiny incisions into the abdomen and with the use of a laparoscope (camera), television monitor and laparoscopic instruments. The laparoscope magnifies the abdominal structures allowing for greater surgical precision and fewer complications. The ovaries are removed with use of a vessel sealer which cauterizes and cuts the ovarian attachments.

Although a laparoscopic spay is more expensive than a traditional spay due to the cost of the instrumentation and training involved, the benefits to the patient are quite significant. The benefits to a laparoscopic spay include:

- Up to 65% reduced post-operative pain (based on a study published in the Journal of the Veterinary Medical Association)
- Faster healing from the tiny incisions
- Reduced chance of infection due to the minimally invasive technique
- Fewer to no sutures for increase patient comfort
- Shorter recovery and faster return to normal activity
- Less surgical trauma
- Reduced scarring

*By incorporating the same techniques seen in human minimally invasive surgery, the laparoscopic spay or “lap spay” allows you to give your pet the same care you would expect for yourself. It is a safer, less painful, faster healing alternative to traditional spays.*



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